

This employee started working for Utah County in 2007. He would spend his summers off from being a High School Science teacher to work as a seasonal employee for Utah County Health Dept. He continued as a seasonal employee until 2015 when he retired from teaching after 31 years at Orem High. After a year of retirement life, he decided to go back to work and was hired as the Director of Mosquito Abatement.

As a seasonal employee, Dan's hard work and knowledge of creating programs, graphs, record keeping and testing for the West Nile Virus have been very instrumental in creating the lab we have today. He's the reason we started doing the ramp testing and as the Director, he has made it possible for us to do our own PCR testing now, which enables us to know if we have the West Nile Virus a lot faster than in the past.

Dan is driven to seek out new ways of working smarter within the limited resources available. Over the past several years, Dan worked collaboratively with the County's GIS department to develop the ability to track the routes of spraying, larvicide and other control efforts throughout the busy season. This new project required the development of an app used on iPads in ULV trucks to connect to the GIS network and gather time and location data that can be tracked and monitored in real time. Data is then analyzed to improve decisions on where, when, and how effective mosquito control is offered in all areas within the county.

Dan's work with the county IT/GIS department and the use of iPads in the field have made the division much more efficient in responding to citizen's complaints and insuring that areas are treated and not over treated for mosquito control. While many of the Mosquito Abatement staff are seasonal employees, they along with the full-time staff have a great deal of respect for Dan and his leadership in the division.

Dan's scientific background has helped improve the services offered to the public in creative and innovative ways. He also shares these new innovative practices with other Mosquito abatement districts across Utah by speaking at professional conferences and workshops. He is currently conducting a research project to utilize DNA samples to determine the various types of animals that mosquitoes in a given sample have been feeding on. He also received a grant to start up new testing procedures for traps that monitor for the existence of the Zika virus within the community. He also served as an expert to inform the Utah Lake Delta project through scientific observation and analysis. He performs all of this important work with the goal of protecting the public from preventable mosquito borne illnesses.

Dan is a phenomenal spokesperson for UCHD. He has the ability to effectively educate and speak to grade school children, teenagers, college students, and the media. Dan is the ever professional, always working closely with the Public Information Officer to develop talking points prior to interviews and making sure the PIO is looped in on any important issues happening involving mosquito abatement. He is very humble about the wealth of knowledge he brings to Utah County Health Department. We are very lucky to have such an innovative, committed, and genuinely great employee at UCHD!

Dan was born in Glendale, CA. He was the only boy with 3 younger sisters. After moving around a little, Dan's family eventually ended up in Orem, where he's been ever since. Dan attended Orem High where he excelled on the swim team, receiving many awards through his high school years. He graduated in 1975, but Dan's love for swimming didn't stop there. He started as a swim coach in 1976 at the age of 18 and continued coaching until 2007. He was the Orem High Swim Coach for 20+ years, sending several teams to State competition and even Moscow Russia in 2003. He's been awarded the Women's coach of the year several times and still helps run the State Swim Meet today.

Dan attended college at BYU. He started taking pre-law classes but soon after realized he loved coaching and working with kids more, so he decided to change his major. He graduated in 1984 with degrees in Physical Education, Biology, Chemistry, ESL, Environmental Science and a Master's in Educational Leadership. Dan married Becky Christiansen in 1979 and they just celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary. They have 4 children (3 boys & 1 girl) and were just blessed with their 5th grandchild, a grandson finally!

Dan loves spending time with his family at Sunday dinners, birthdays, holidays or just babysitting the grandkids. But his most favorite thing to do with his family is to go fishing at Deer Creek on his pontoon boat but his calling as an LDS Stake President limits his time for fishing. Dan also likes to go camping, hunting and loves to travel, especially to Europe. When he decides to retire again, he hopes to serve an LDS mission with his wife and travel!